

EXHIBIT C

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS
EASTERN DIVISION**

ANDREW CORZO, SIA HENRY, ALEXANDER LEO-GUERRA, MICHAEL MAERLENDER, BRANDON PIYEVSKY, BENJAMIN SHUMATE, BRITTANY TATIANA WEAVER, and CAMERON WILLIAMS, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated,

Plaintiffs,

v.

BROWN UNIVERSITY, CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO, THE TRUSTEES OF COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK, CORNELL UNIVERSITY, TRUSTEES OF DARTMOUTH COLLEGE, DUKE UNIVERSITY, EMORY UNIVERSITY, GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY, THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY, MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY, UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME DU LAC, THE TRUSTEES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA, WILLIAM MARSH RICE UNIVERSITY, VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY, and YALE UNIVERSITY,

Defendants.

Case No.: 1:22-cv-00125

Hon. Matthew F. Kennelly

**[PROPOSED] ORDER PRELIMINARILY APPROVING SETTLEMENT,
PROVISIONALLY CERTIFYING THE PROPOSED SETTLEMENT CLASS,
APPROVING THE NOTICE PLAN, AND APPROVING THE PROCESS SCHEDULED
FOR COMPLETING THE SETTLEMENT PROCESS**

WHEREAS, on August 7, 2023, Plaintiffs Andrew Corzo, Sia Henry, Alexander Leo-Guerra, Michael Maerlender, Brandon Piyevsky, Benjamin Shumate, Brittany Tatiana Weaver, and Cameron Williams (collectively, “Plaintiffs”), on behalf of themselves and a proposed Settlement Class (defined below), and defendant the University of Chicago (the “University”)

(Plaintiffs and the University together, the “Parties”) entered into a settlement agreement that sets forth the terms and conditions of the Parties’ proposed settlement and the release and dismissal with prejudice of the claims of the Plaintiffs and members of the proposed Settlement Class against the University (the “Settlement”);

Whereas, on August 14, 2023, Plaintiffs filed a Motion for Preliminary Approval of the Settlement, Provisional Certification of Proposed Settlement Class, Approval of Notice Plan, and Approval of the Proposed Schedule for Completing the Settlement Process, requesting the entry of an Order: (i) granting preliminary approval of the Settlement Agreement; (ii) finding that the standards for certifying the proposed Settlement Class under Fed. R. Civ. P. 23 for purposes of Settlement and judgment are likely satisfied; (iii) appointing Andrew Corzo, Sia Henry, Alexander Leo-Guerra, Michael Maerlender, Brandon Piyevsky, Benjamin Shumate, Brittany Tatiana Weaver, and Cameron Williams as representatives of the Settlement Class (“Class Representatives”); (iv) appointing Freedman Normand Friedland LLP, Gilbert Litigators & Counselors PC, and Berger Montague PC as Settlement Class Counsel under Fed R. Civ. P. 23(g); (v) approving the proposed notice plan and authorizing dissemination of notice to the Settlement Class; (vi) appointing Angeion Group as Settlement Claims Administrator; (vii) appointing The Huntington National Bank (“Huntington Bank”) as Escrow Agent; and (viii) approving the proposed Settlement schedule, including setting a date for a final Fairness Hearing;

WHEREAS, the University supports Plaintiffs’ Motion; and

WHEREAS, the Court is familiar with and has reviewed the record in this case and the Settlement, and has found good cause for entering the following Order.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

Jurisdiction

1. This Court has jurisdiction to enter this Order as it has jurisdiction over the subject matter of this action and over the University and Plaintiffs, including all members of the Settlement Class (defined below).

Settlement Class

2. Pursuant to Rule 23(e)(1)(B)(ii) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, the Court preliminarily finds that the Court will likely find that the requirements of Federal Rules of Civil Procedure 23(a) and 23(b)(3) have been satisfied for settlement and judgment purposes only. As to the requirements of Rule 23(a) for settlement purposes only, (i) the Settlement Class provisionally certified herein likely exceeds 100,000 individuals, and joinder of all would be impracticable; (ii) there are questions of law and fact common to the Settlement Class; (iii) Class Representatives' claims are typical of the claims of the Settlement Class they seek to represent for purposes of settlement; (iv) Class Representatives are adequate representatives of the Settlement Class. As to the requirements of Rule 23(b)(3) for settlement purposes only, questions of law and fact common to the Settlement Class predominate over any questions affecting any individual Settlement Class Member, and a class action on behalf of the Settlement Class is superior to other available means of settling and disposing of this dispute.

3. Pursuant to Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, the Court provisionally certifies, solely for purposes of effectuating the Settlement, the following "Settlement Class":

All U.S. citizens or permanent residents who have during the Class Period (a) enrolled in

one or more of Defendants'¹ full-time undergraduate programs, and (b) received at least some need-based financial aid from one or more Defendants, and (c) directly purchased from one or more Defendants tuition, fees, room, or board that was not fully covered by the combination of any types of financial aid or merit aid (not including loans) in any undergraduate year.² The Class Period is defined as follows:

- For Chicago, Columbia, Cornell, Duke, Georgetown, MIT, Northwestern, Notre Dame, Penn, Rice, Vanderbilt, Yale—from 2003 through the date of this Order.
- For Brown, Dartmouth, Emory—from 2004 through the date of this Order.
- For Caltech—from 2019 through the date of this Order.
- For Johns Hopkins—from 2021 through the date of this Order.

Excluded from the Class are:

- Any Officers and or Trustees of Defendants, or any current or former employees holding any of the following positions: Assistant or Associate Vice Presidents or Vice Provosts, Executive Directors, or Directors of Defendants' Financial Aid and Admissions offices, or any Deans or Vice Deans, or any employees in Defendants in-house legal offices; and
- the Judge presiding over this Action, his or her law clerks, spouse, and any person within the third degree of relationship living in the Judge's household and the spouse of such a person.

4. For settlement purposes only, the Court hereby appoints plaintiffs Andrew Corzo,

Sia Henry, Alexander Leo-Guerra, Michael Maerlender, Brandon Piyevsky, Benjamin Shumate,

Brittany Tatiana Weaver, and Cameron Williams as Class Representatives.

¹ Defendants are Brown University ("Brown"), California Institute of Technology ("Caltech"); University of Chicago ("Chicago"); The Trustees of Columbia University in the City of New York ("Columbia"); Cornell University ("Cornell"), Trustees of Dartmouth College ("Dartmouth"), Duke University ("Duke"), Emory University ("Emory"), Georgetown University ("Georgetown"), The Johns Hopkins University ("Johns Hopkins"), Massachusetts Institute of Technology ("MIT"), Northwestern University ("Northwestern"), University of Notre Dame du Lac ("Notre Dame"), The Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania ("Penn"), William Marsh Rice University ("Rice"), Vanderbilt University ("Vanderbilt"), and Yale University ("Yale") (together "Defendant Universities").

² For avoidance of doubt, the Class does not include purchasers for whom the total cost they were charged by the Defendant or Defendants whose institution(s) they attended, including tuition, fees, room, or board for each undergraduate academic year, was covered by any form of financial aid or merit aid (not including loans) from one or more Defendants.

Preliminary Approval of Settlement

5. Pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(e)(1)(B), based on “the parties’ showing that the court will likely be able to (i) approve the proposal[s] under Rule 23(e)(2); and (ii) certify the class for purposes of judgment on the proposal[s],” the Court hereby preliminarily approves the Settlement, as embodied in the Settlement Agreement.

6. Upon review of the record, the Court finds the Settlement was entered into after approximately sixteen months of hard-fought litigation, extensive discovery, and arm’s length negotiations. Accordingly, the Court preliminarily finds that the Settlement meets all factors under Rule 23(e)(2) and will likely be granted final approval by the Court, subject to further consideration at the Court’s final Fairness Hearing. The Court finds that the Settlement encompassed by the Settlement Agreement is preliminarily determined to be fair, reasonable, and adequate, and in the best interest of the Settlement Class, raises no obvious reasons to doubt its fairness, and that there is a reasonable basis for presuming that the Settlement and its terms satisfy the requirements of Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23(c)(2) and 23(e) and due process so that notice of the Settlement should be given to members of the Settlement Class.

7. The Court has reviewed and hereby preliminarily approves the Plan of Allocation.

8. Angeion Group is hereby appointed as Settlement Claims Administrator.

9. Huntington Bank is hereby appointed as Escrow Agent pursuant to the Settlement.

10. The Court approves the establishment of the Settlement Fund under the Settlement Agreement as a qualified settlement fund (“QSF”) pursuant to Internal Revenue Code Section 468B and the Treasury Regulations promulgated thereunder and retains continuing jurisdiction as to any issue that may arise in connection with the formation and/or administration of the QSF. In accordance with the Settlement Agreement, Settlement Class Counsel are

authorized to withdraw funds from the QSF for the payment of the reasonable costs of notice, payment of taxes, and reasonable settlement administration costs.

11. Pending further Order of the Court, all litigation activity against the University on behalf of the Settlement Class is hereby stayed, and all hearings, deadlines, and other proceedings related to the Plaintiffs' claims against the University, other than those incident to the settlement process, are hereby taken off the Court's calendar. The stay shall remain in effect until such a time that (i) the University or Plaintiffs exercise their right to terminate the Settlement pursuant to its terms; (ii) the Settlement is terminated pursuant to its terms; or (iii) the Court renders a final decision regarding approval of the Settlement, and if it approves the Settlement, enters final judgment and dismisses Plaintiffs claims against the University with prejudice.

12. In the event that the Settlement fails to become effective in accordance with its terms, or if an Order granting final approval to the Settlement and dismissing Plaintiffs' claims against the University with prejudice is not entered or is reversed, vacated, or materially modified on appeal, this Order shall be null and void.

13. In the event the Settlement is terminated, not approved by the Court, or the Settlement does not become final pursuant to the terms of the Settlement, litigation against Defendants shall resume in a reasonable manner as approved by the Court upon joint application of the Plaintiffs and the University.

Approval of Notice Plan

14. The Court approves, in form and substance, the long-form and publication notice, and the website as described herein. The class notice plan specified by Plaintiffs and supported by the Declaration of Steven Weisbrot of Ageion Group: (i) is the best notice practicable; (ii) is

reasonably calculated, under the circumstances, to apprise members of the Settlement Class of the pendency and status of this Action and of their right to participate in, object to, or exclude themselves from the proposed Settlement; (iii) is reasonable and constitutes due, adequate, and sufficient notice to all persons entitled to receive notice of the Fairness Hearing; and (iv) fully satisfies the requirements of Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(e)(1), and constitutes due process, and is a reasonable manner of distributing notice to Settlement Class members who would be bound by the Settlement.

15. Angeion may modify the form and/or content of the targeted advertisements and banner notices as it deems necessary and appropriate to maximize their impact and reach, as long as those modifications substantially comport with the Notices attached to the Declaration of Steven Weisbrot and are approved by the Parties.

16. Defendants shall provide notice of the Settlement as required by 28 U.S.C. § 1715.

Email and Mailing Addresses for Notice

17. Pursuant to 34 C.F.R. § 99.37(a), the Court finds that mailing addresses and email addresses in education records of current students of a Defendant constitute “directory information” and may be disclosed, without consent, to the Settlement Claims Administrator for purposes of providing class notice in this litigation if (a) the Defendant has previously provided public notice that the mailing addresses and email addresses are considered “directory information” that may be disclosed to third parties including public notice of how students may restrict the disclosure of such information, and (b) the student has not exercised a right to block disclosure of mailing addresses or email addresses (“FERPA Block”). Defendants shall not disclose from education records mailing addresses or email addresses subject to a FERPA Block.

18. Pursuant to 34 C.F.R. § 99.37(b), the Court further finds that mailing addresses and email addresses in education records of former students of a Defendant constitute “directory information” and may be disclosed, without consent, to the Settlement Claims Administrator for purposes of providing class notice in this litigation, provided that each Defendant continues to honor any valid and un-rescinded FERPA Block.

Approval of Schedule

19. Angeion Group and the Parties shall adhere to the following schedule:

a. No later than 30 days after the date of this Order, Angeion Group shall begin the process of providing notice to the Settlement Class, in accordance with the Plan of Notice.

b. No later than 75 days after the date of this Order, Settlement Class Counsel shall file a motion for attorneys’ fees, unreimbursed litigation costs and expenses, and/or service awards for the Class Representatives, pursuant to the terms of the Settlement Agreement.

c. By no later than 90 days after the date of this Order, Settlement Class Members may request exclusion from the Class or submit any objection to the proposed Settlement or to the proposed allocation plan summarized in the notice, or to Settlement Class Counsel’s request for attorneys’ fees, unreimbursed litigation costs and expenses, and/or service awards to the Class Representatives. All objections must be in writing and filed with the Court, with copies sent to the Claims Administrator, and include the following information: (1) the name of the case (*Henry, et al. v. Brown University, et al.*, Case No. 1:22-cv-00125); (2) the individual’s name and address and if represented by counsel, the name, address, and telephone number of counsel; (3) proof of membership (such as, for instance, evidence of an accepted financial aid award from a Defendant University), indicating that the individual is a member of the Settlement Class; (4) a statement detailing all objections to the Settlement; and (5) a statement of whether the individual

will appear at the Fairness Hearing, either with or without counsel. All requests for exclusion from the Class must be in writing, mailed to the Claims Administrator, and include the following information: (1) the name of the case (*Henry, et al. v. Brown University, et al.*, Case No. 1:22-cv-00125); (2) the individual's name and address and if represented by counsel, the name, address, and telephone number of counsel; (3) proof of membership (such as, for instance, evidence of an accepted financial aid award from a Defendant University); (4) a statement indicating that the individual is a member of the proposed Settlement Class and wishes to be excluded from the Settlement Class; and (5) an individual signature by the Settlement Class member.

d. No later than 105 days after the date of this Order, Settlement Class Counsel shall file all briefs and materials in support of final approval of the Settlement.

e. A hearing on final approval of the Settlement shall be held before this Court on _____, 2023, at _____. The Fairness Hearing shall take place at least 120 days after the Court's entry of this Order.

Dated: _____, 2023

SO ORDERED

Matthew F. Kennelly
United States District Judge